# 11 >> YUUKEI YESTERDAY II

...THAT BEING SAID, THOUGH...

A SHOOTING GALLERY, HUH...?

WHEN I'M HOME, I PRETTY MUCH JUST HOLE UP IN MY ROOM AND PLAY GAMES ONLINE.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF FRIENDS.

HEY, ENOMOTO-SAN...

...YOU NODDED OFF THERE AGAIN. HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING?

I... I SLEPT... ALMOST TWELVE HOURS LAST NIGHT...

AH HA HA!

WOW, THAT MUCH?

SO WHY'D YOU CONK OUT LIKE THAT WHILE WE WERE TALKING?

OH...

YOU MUST BE SICK OR SOMETHING, ENOMOTO-SAN.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE...

NAH, SHE'S JUST CUTTING CLASS!

WERE WE...? I'M SORRY.

GEEZ, YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

GET IT TOGETHER, GIRL!

I ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE...

...WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT...

I'M NOT LIKE THOSE GIRLS, JABBERING ON BRAINLESSLY LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO.

WHAT?

YOU KNOW...

...WE COULD ALWAYS DO SOMETHING ELSE.

IF WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ...

...I WANT IT TO BE SOMETHING THAT CAN SURPRISE THEM ALL!

UH... UM...

GYAN (SNAP)

GYAN

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO DO A SHOOTING GALLERY! HELP ME THINK OF SOME-THING!

UH...

NO!

IT'S ONLY IMPOSSIBLE IF WE BELIEVE IT IS!

KUWA (SNARL)

GAKU (SLUMP)

HAAAH...

U-UMMM...

WHOA, WHOA, HANG ON A SEC!

WHICH MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO GO IT ALONE, HARU—

...YEAH, I FIGURED.

NOPE! NEVER BUILT A THING IN MY LIFE!

ARE YOU HANDY AT ALL, SENSEI?

ONE THING'S FOR SURE— WE CAN'T REALLY BUILD A BIG, FANCY STAND OR ANYTHING.

OKAY, I'LL ADMIT I'M NO DO-IT-YOURSELFER OR ANYTHING, BUT...

...I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M PRETTY GOOD AT PROGRAMMING AND STUFF!

BISHII (JAB)

LOOK, YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY, SO...

...WHY DON'T YOU GO CODE A DATING SIM OR—

LIKE I CARE ONE BIT.

HUH... YEAH, WOW, NEATO...

OH!

ZZZ...

ZZZ...

HA

HA-HA

HA!

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MANAGE ANY BIG PROPS...

ZZZ...

ZZZ...

AND WE GOTTA MAKE THE WORLD'S BEST SHOOTING GALLERY...!

BIKU (JUMP)

GURA (LURCH)

GATAN (SLAM)

GWAH!

THE ONLY PRIZE WE HAVE IS A RARE FISH SPECIMEN...

...I HAVE AN IDEA!

I...!

I THINK WE CAN PULL THIS OFF!!

GATAN (CLATTER)

WHAT!!

WH-WHOA! TAKANE, WAIT A SEC!

I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, OKAY?

VIOLENCE WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING, ALL RIGHT!?

—SEN-SEI...

GU (GRIP)

BUT IT'S GONNA BE A HUGE PAIN TO PUT IT TOGETHER, NO?

LIKE I TOLD YOU, I'VE NEVER EVEN BUILT A BOOKSHELF, SO...

NO, NO, I KNOW I CAN'T RELY ON YOU FOR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

BUT YOU CAN DO ONE THING...

THE SHOOTING GALLERY?

UH?

OH.

YOU CAN PROGRAM.

YOU CAN, CAN'T YOU!?

SENSEI...?

NIYA CGRIND

AH!

UM? YEAH, BUT...

?

THIS IS NO TIME FOR NAPPING, HARUKA.

SAAAA (PALE)

WHA- WHAT'S WITH YOU, TAKANE...?

HEH HEH HEH...

MAN, THESE GUYS ARE PITIFUL...

GATA (TRMBL)

GATA

GATA

GATA

EEEP ...!!

GIRORI (STARE)

I THINK WE CAN PULL OFF THIS SHOOTING GALLERY AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE GOOD AT DRAWING, RIGHT...?

BIKU (FLINCH)

WE DON'T NEED A TABLE SAW OR ANY-THING...

...TO MAKE A SHOOTING GALLERY GAME, RIGHT?

ZUI (LOOM)

HEY, TAKANE...

...THIS "SHOOTING GALLERY" YOU'RE THINKING OF...

EH-HEH-HEH...YOU GUESSED IT.

HUH ...!?

...AND IF WE DID IT THAT WAY, ONE PRIZE IS ALL WE'D NEED.

HARUKA COULD DRAW THE CHARACTERS AND BACK-GROUNDS...

WE'RE GONNA MAKE A VIDEO GAME? STARTING NOW!?

GATAN (CLATTER)

WELL, YEAH!

YOU CAN DRAW ALL OF THE GRAPHICS FOR IT, RIGHT?

.....

THAT'LL BE PRETTY EXCITING FOR YOU, I BET!

NI (GRIND)

PAA (BEAM)

BUN (NOD)

BUN

IT AIN'T GONNA BE EASY, BUT WE CAN DO IT!

I'M SURE SENSEI WILL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT IN THE END, SO—

WHAA!?

GUYS, WAIT A SECOND!!

PRINCI—

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONG IT TAKES TO CODE—

I MEAN, ARE YOU NUTS!?

ZUDONN CDADOOMD

WHY'S IT GOTTA BE ME!?

THAT'S A TON OF WORK YOU'RE DUMPING ON ME!!!

HA HA HA HA!!

I'LL DO IT! THIS IS GONNA TURN OUT GREAT!!!

.....

BUT IF WE MAKE IT SO HARD THAT NOBODY CAN WIN, THAT'LL TURN 'EM OFF EVEN MORE...

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN PREDICT HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BEAT THE GAME.

OH, NO WORRIES THERE.

HAAAH!

BUT LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING.

WHAT DID YOU MEAN, "*ONE PRIZE IS ALL WE NEED*"?

SURE, THAT'S NO PROBLEM, BUT...

YOU DON'T MEAN...

EXACTLY!

IT WON'T BE ABOUT THE ENDING. IT'LL JUST BE FOR POINTS.

PI (FWIP)

MAKE IT A TWO-PLAYER GAME, OKAY?

I'LL PLAY ANYONE WHO SHOWS UP, AND WE'LL COMPETE FOR THE HIGHEST SCORE.

IF THEY'RE PLAYING AGAINST A LITTLE GIIIRL LIKE ME...

...NOBODY'S GONNA COMPLAIN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY THEN, RIGHT?

NIYARI (SMIRK)

PI

BUT IF YOU LOSE EVEN ONCE, WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP OUR PRIZE, RIGHT?

YEAH, LIKE THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN.

WHO SAID I WOULD LOSE?

YOU'RE GONNA PLAY ALL OF THEM?

HUH?

HAAAH...?

I CAN'T BLAME HARUKA FOR BEING NERVOUS.

BUT...

I'LL MAKE SURE THAT IT WORKS OUT THAT WAY.

I'LL JUST LOSE ONCE ON PURPOSE TOWARD THE END, AND WE'LL BE THE TALK OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL...

OH, HARU-KA...

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW...

YOU CAN'T PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN A VIDEO GAME.

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE I COULD LOSE.

WORKS OUT...?

ACTUALLY, I HOPED I'D NEVER HAVE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT...

AS IN, NEVER EVER...

YOU KNOW THAT GAME WITH ALL THE TV ADS? THE DUDE BLOWING AWAY ALL THOSE ZOMBIES?

SHE'S, LIKE, A CELEB-RITY ON THE NET.

もーん MON (PONDER)

もーん MON

BUT IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

I HAVE A **SPECIAL ABILITY** I'VE NEVER TOLD HIM ABOUT.

.....

ACK

OH YEAH, I'VE SEEN THAT.

THERE WAS SOME KIND OF CHAMPI-ONSHIP NOT LONG AGO...

ONE OF THOSE ONLINE GAMES, RIGHT?

RIGHT, RIGHT.

WELL, TAKANE PLACED SECOND IN THE NATION-ALS.

BA (FWIP)

AAAAH, HARU-KAAA...!!

I...I'M NOT...

GYAAAAGH!!

WHY'RE YOU TELLING HIM THAT!!?

WH— WH— WH—

WATA (FLAIL)

わたわた

WATA

わたわた

WATA

THE GAME IS DEAD BULLET -1989-, AN ONLINE SHOOTER WHERE YOU MOW DOWN WAVE AFTER WAVE OF ZOMBIES.

I WAS A HEAVY PLAYER OF THE GAME WHO MADE IT INTO THE TOP RANKS APPROXIMATELY FOUR HOURS AFTER THE GAME LAUNCHED.

I'M NOT REALLY ...!!!

GURU

GURU

GURU (DIZZY)

BUT...

...THE THING ABOUT DEAD BULLET -1989- IS, IT'S SUPER-VIOLENT... ITS AUDIENCE IS NEARLY ALL MALE.

...I WAS FAMOUS ENOUGH TO HAVE A FAN COMMUNITY WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS.

THANKS TO THE UNIQUE STRATEGIC APPROACH I BROUGHT TO THE GAME...

PFFFT

OH MAN.

YOU, PLAYING DEAD BULLET? YOU AND A BUNCH OF DUDES, LOL.

BETTER KEEP AWAY FROM THIS NERD! LOLOLOL.

IF HARUKA FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS...!!

IT'S NOT THE SORT OF THING A TEENAGE GIRL GETS ADDICTED TO...!!!

TAKANE...

OH GOD, I CAN PICTURE IT NOW...!!

WOW! SECOND IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY? THAT'S AMAZING!

I'M TOTALLY SURPRISED!

THERE, YOU SEE, TAKANE?

YOU WERE LOOKING FOR FRIENDS TO PLAY WITH, WEREN'T YOU?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE NOW?

IS IT, LIKE, REALLY FUN?

UH...

ER... UMM...

TAJI

TAJI (SQUIRM)

HA HA HA HA!!

I WOULD'VE FIGURED YOU PLAYED IT ALL THE TIME IF YOU WERE THAT INTO IT...

NIYA (SMIRK)

NIYA

SO WHAT WAS YOUR HANDLE?

ACK!

HUH!? WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

I'M NOT ALL THAT GOOD AT *DEAD BULLET*, SO I THOUGHT, HEY, WHY NOT INVITE HARUKA?

IT'S NOT LIKE I PLAY ALL THAT MUCH OR ANY-THING...

OH, REEEAL-LY?

GATA

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!!

I'M SORRY, ALL RIGHT!!? ANYTHING BUT THAT!!

GATA

I'M GONNA TELL THE PRINCIPAL EVERY-THING, SENSEI!!!

GATAN

GYAH! GYAH!

HEY... UM...

AAAAGH

NOOOOOOO!!!!

GAAAAGH!!!!

SOMETHING LIKE "DANCING FLASH—"

GATA

GATATA (CLATTER)

HAAH...

HFF... HFF...

KANKON

COULD YOU GUYS CALM—

KINKON (DING-DONG)

!

...

SO...

GUCHI

...HOW ABOUT WE ALL JUST AGREE TO KEEP QUIET, ALL RIGHT? ABOUT EVERY-THING.

GUCHI

YES... THAT SOUNDS BEST TO ME TOO...

BUT KNOW THIS—IF YOU LEAK ANYTHING ELSE...

SAME GOES FOR YOU, TAKANE. DO WE HAVE A DEAL...?

GUCHI

...ALL RIGHT.

I'LL BITE MY LIP AND BOTTLE IT UP INSIDE...

GUCHI

GUCHI

GUCHI (TENSE)

RIGHT...

THIS IS PARTLY MY FAULT TOO.

GUESS WE'LL SEE WHAT I CAN COME UP WITH!

HAAH...

OOH

GAKU (SLUMP)

HAAH...

PATAN (SLAM)

...LET'S SPEND NEXT PERIOD WORKING OUT THE DETAILS, ALL RIGHT?

FEEL FREE TO HIT THE BATH-ROOM IF YOU WANT.

GARA (SLIDE)

YOU THINK WE CAN REALLY DO THIS...?

HEH!

AH!

I THINK WE CAN DO THIS!

I'LL DO MY BEST TOO, OKAY?

...YOU SURE MADE A LOT OF BIG PROMISES, TAKANE...

...BUT, I DUNNO, THIS IS STARTING TO GET KINDA EXCITING!

AH!

...OKAY!

GATAN (CLATTER)

...NO.

I'M SURE IT'S JUST ME...

...GETTING SHY ABOUT MY GAMER LIFE BEING EXPOSED.

THIS IS GONNA BE A BLAST!

GAH!

WHY'S MY FACE GOING ALL RED...!?

BA (FWIP)

AND I'M SURE THIS SMILE...

...IS JUST ME GRINNING OUT OF EMBAR-RASS-MENT.

GARA (SLIDE)

HMM...

WHAT KINDS OF ENEMIES SHOULD WE HAVE?

KYU (SCRITCH)

KYU

KYU

.....

WELL...

...WE WON'T BE BORED, AT LEAST.

.....

KYU

KYU

KYU